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is available for 911th members
and their families by calling
1-800-235-7780 or (412) 474-8544

Flyover

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911th Airlift Wing Air Force Reserve Command - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



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Activation, busy year comes to close 32nd Aerial Porters receive warm welcome home



Photo by Master Sgt. Mark A. Winklosky

Staff Sgt. Matthew Wagner, 32nd Aerial Port Squadron, shared the spotlight with his father, Senior Master Sgt. James Wagner, 758th Operations Squadron, during the 32nd APS "Welcome Home" party, Nov. 8. Approximately 48 members of the 32nd APS returned home to the 911th Airlift Wing after spending several month's rotating between Germany, Kuwait and the states. These reservists have been activated since December 2004. The Wagner's, pictured here, were interviewed because of their unique situation. Senior Master Sgt. Wagner, a loadmaster, flew one of his last missions in order to pick up his son at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Senior Master Sgt. Wagner is due to retire, January 2006, with more than 36 years service. Staff Sgt. Wagner also plans to make the military a career.



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Col. Randal L. Bright

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<http://www.afrc.af.mil/911aw>

Commander's Corner

Happy Holidays!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the 911th Airlift Wing for your service during the past two years of involuntary partial mobilization. You may have served less than the two years that several members served but your service was no less distinguished. The aviation package, consisting of units of the operations and maintenance groups, performed an outstanding job serving the national efforts in the Global War On Terrorism as well as the aerial port squadron, and aeromedical evacuation squadron. Several members of the communication squadron, services squadron and the aeromedical staging squadron served various mobilized tours of duty not to mention the various military personnel appropriations (MPA) tours that several members of the wing performed. You should be proud of the accomplishments that you have done for the past two years in this effort as I am proud of you.

This will be the first edition of the *Flyover* in nearly two years that is being read by a mostly, volunteer, traditional reserve wing. With your transition back to reserve status, you may encounter several unexpected obstacles, family problems, employer problems, etc. I can assure you that we are here for you and will do everything in our power to make this as smooth a transition as possible. Don't forget about the services our family support office provides or the services the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) offers. Please get with us if you are experiencing any transition problems.

As you read this *Flyover*, you are obviously well aware the Base Realignment and Closure process has come to an end. We have been selected to remain in business, with our current mission and airframes intact. We have also been given a new opportunity for success with the addition of the Regional Joint Readiness Center (RJRC). Trust me when I say that the issue of the RJRC is being worked at the highest levels of the Department of Defense in cooperation with Congress to figure out what the RJRC will be, what it's mission will be, who will man it, and where it will be located. This is a great opportunity to work side-by-side with our civilian counterparts, both in the Pittsburgh area and other areas of the country, to further our mission by supporting our fellow citizens.

Amy and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you Happy Holiday Seasons. We hope you get to spend time with your family and friends and give thanks for living in a free country that allows you to celebrate your holidays, regardless of religious preference, however you feel inclined to celebrate.

Again, thank you for the service you provide for our nation and I am honored to be your commander.



Colonel Randal L. Bright



General Bankers receives presidential award

Maj. Gen. James Donald Bankers, 22nd Air Force commander, received a presidential rank award for 2005.

Thirteen senior executive service civilians from throughout the Air Force earned the award. Air Force Print News announced the winners Oct. 21 after White House officials named the award recipients.

General Bankers is a dual-status air reserve technician – a federal employee and a reservist – in Air Force Reserve Command at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.

The awards recognize career senior executive service and senior professional individuals. They are leaders, professionals and scientists who achieve results and consistently demonstrate strength, integrity, industry and a relentless commitment to excellence in public service.

General Bankers was one of 10 people to get the meritorious award for sustained accomplishment. The award includes a lump-sum payment of 20 percent of base pay. It is limited to 5 percent of the career senior executive service, defense intelligence senior executive service, or senior level scientific or professional government-wide population. (AFRC News Service from Air Force Print News)

Black Ice, steps to protect you and your family

Black Ice has been around ever since the first road was constructed. It's caused when snow or ice melts during the day and then refreezes again at night when temperatures drop below freezing. The ice is nearly invisible because it is clear and matches the roadway beneath it. If the following conditions apply, black ice most likely exists on the roadway.

- Ice on windshield wipers or side mirrors.
- Temperature is near or below freezing.
- Road way appears dry but dark or dull looking.

Safety tips to remember while driving in winter weather conditions:

- ✓ ALWAYS, ALWAYS, wear your seatbelt.
- ✓ Turn on your headlights in adverse conditions, overcast skies; falling snow and rain limit your visibility.
- ✓ Bridges and overpasses freeze before roadways, always use caution in adverse conditions.
- ✓ Driving in winter conditions causes' mental and physical fatigue, always be rested before you drive.
- ✓ Don't drive after you take medication that makes you drowsy.
- ✓ Check your vehicle each time before you go out, fluid levels, lights, tire pressure and your battery.
- ✓ Have a mechanic make winter repairs to your vehicle.
- ✓ Stock an emergency kit with heavy clothes and a blanket, first aide kit, flashlight, jumper cables and a bright cloth to use as a flag.

Approximately 117 people die each day in a traffic accident, that's one every 12 minutes. Take the necessary precautions and safety steps to avoid becoming that kind of statistic.

Information was collectively gathered through webworldinc.com and paho.org

QUICK CUPS

A Big Thank you!

United Way and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) has officially ended. For the record, our goal this year was a modest \$10,000. To date pledges total \$6,500. While we didn't meet our goal you can be sure our pledge will be gratefully accepted by United Way and other agencies we contributed to. Here's a story that illustrates the power of giving.

Air Force OneSource

U.S. Air Force offers you access to Air Force OneSource Online, where you can find help to cope with life's little — and not so little — issues.

You can access informative articles, helpful tools, audio tips on hundreds of specific topics, and much more.

Air Force OneSource also offers monthly email newsletters on a variety of topics.

Visit Air Force OneSource at www.airforceonesource.com or call 1-800-707-5784 for more information on this program.

ITT Services for you

With the 2006 ski season quickly closing in, it's time to start thinking about ski passes.

Hidden Valley is offering a season pass for \$69 or 10 percent off daily passes. Seven Springs is offering daily passes for \$7. Must show military ID.

For more information call Aaron Spangler at (412) 474-8641.



Celebrating the holiday season responsibly

by Master Sgt. Kenneth Komlos
911th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Believe it or not, the holiday season is upon us once again. Over the next few weeks, invitations to holiday gatherings will arrive in mailboxes and people will begin celebrating this special season with friends and family. During this holiday season, make a point of celebrating without alcohol or drugs and if you must drink, do so in moderation.

Approximately 109 million [48.3 percent] Americans currently drink alcohol and more than 25 million persons drove under the influence of alcohol at least once within the past twelve months, according to the SAMSHA's 2001 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

Impaired driving is one of the most costly consequences of drinking during the holidays. Accidents caused but impaired driving skyrocket each year in December and early January. Domestic violence, workplace problems, fetal alcohol syndrome, and dependence are some of the many other risks a person takes when he or she abuses alcohol.

Currently, it is illegal to drive with a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) at or above .08 in 29 States, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico. All but one State [Massachusetts] considers a person to be driving illegally per se at or above .10 BAC. The Department of Transportation (DOT), in their report, *Setting Limits, Saving Lives*, stresses, "At .08 BAC, virtually all drivers, even experienced drinkers, show impairment in driving ability.

For this reason, in 2000 Congress agreed to make .08 BAC the national standard for impaired driving. Beginning October 1, 2003, any State that has not adopted the .08 BAC standards will have 2 percent of its highway construction funds withheld, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration State Legislative Fact Sheet.

Law enforcement officials can determine a driver's BAC through breath [breathalyzer], blood, and urine tests.

DOT has developed a general guideline determining at what point a person becomes impaired. For instance, *Setting Limits, Saving Lives* notes that a person's reaction time and visual function are impaired at .01 BAC, or less than one standard drink. A person has impaired eye movement control at .03 BAC and his or her ability to process information and make judgments is impaired at .06 BAC.

While some people may choose to drink this season, some people should not drink at all, not even in moderation. This should include:

- Youth under 21
- Persons who are unable to restrict their drinking to moderate levels [i.e., recovering alcoholics or problem drinkers and people whose family members have alcohol problems].
- Women who are or may become pregnant. Alcohol can be dangerous for the fetus, causing birth defects such as fetal alcohol syndrome.
- Persons who plan to drive or operate machinery.
- Persons who are using prescriptions or over the counter medications that may interact with alcohol. If you take medications, ask your health provider if any adverse reactions might occur if you use alcohol while using medicine.

For more information about alcohol and the holidays, or to find a treatment center near you, call SAMSHA'S National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information [NCADI] at 1-800729-6686, or log onto <http://ncadi.samsha.gov>.

Ten reasons to celebrate the holidays alcohol-safe and drug-free:

- I want to make sure I share the holidays with family and friends, not with a cop and a breathalyzer.
- I want to be able to kiss my spouse without falling into the holiday decorations
- I want my smiling mug in a scrapbook, not in a mug shot.
- I want to see the New Year without having to close one eye.
- I'd like to remember where I was and who I was with at holiday parties.
- I choose to entertain people who are witty and fun, not drunk or obnoxious.
- I want to increase my chances of avoiding those people on the road who don't abstain.
- I want to be able to remember whether I resolved to quit smoking or lose weight.
- I want my kids to know that good times come from the heart, not from the bottle.
- I want to make sure that my family knows that I love them



Civilian Award winners for the third quarter



Congratulations to Mr. Bruce Zimmerman of the 911th Security Forces Squadron for his recent Civilian of the Quarter Award in the GS-09 and above, Wage



Supervisor category; and Ms. Kathleen Snarey of the 911th Mission Support Group for her award in the GS-08 and below, Wage Grade category.

Photos by Master Sgt. Mark A. Winklosky

Reservist epitomizes going above and beyond the call of duty

by Tech. Sgt. Jessica J. Benigni
NCOIC, Public Affairs

Honors stream behind the author of "Duty," Benito "Ben" Alvarez, MD, FACOG, MBA, CPE, JD and Major, USAFR. Dr. Alvarez becomes Maj. Alvarez one weekend a month when he reports to the 911th Airlift Wing's Aeromedical Staging Squadron for duty. He joined the Air Force Reserve after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

In civilian life, he is a practicing obstetrician/gynecologist living in Little Falls, Minn., where he is the co-director of the Family Medical Center's Women's Specialty Clinic. The son of Cuban immigrants, he was born and raised in Mt. Vernon, N.Y.

He completed high school in three years and was the Valedictorian. He earned a bachelor's from the prestigious Ivy League school, Columbia University. He graduated

Summa Cum Laude from medical school earning his MD. He received his residency training at the Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio and he holds active medical licenses in four states. He also holds a master's in business administration (MBA) from the University of Tennessee; a law degree (Juris Doctorate) from Madison University; and is a Certified Physician Executive (CPE). He is also fluent in Spanish and English and holds a personal interest in marathons.

Dr. Alvarez goes above and beyond in life. He captures the selfless heroism that lives in Reservists with his poem "Duty." He published "Duty" within his Chapbook of poetry, "Simple Poems for Simple Men." He has also pub-

lished two medical articles and is currently working on a third.

One of his patients wrote an article commemorating Dr. Alvarez as her hero on the website www.yourtruehero.org. "Dr. Alvarez does, without a doubt, take his profession very seriously. But as his knowledge and professionalism

expand, so does his humanness. It seems to even out-grow everything else and I believe it is the reason that keeps me and other patients coming back. He is a great family man, a great doctor and humanitarian and for once I can honestly say he proves my declarations true, and I am so glad that for so many good reasons he is my physician, as well as my hero," she said in an article submitted by Lori Matthews.

"...as his knowledge and professionalism expand, so does his humanness. It seems to even out-grow everything else..."



The Communications Corridor

A link to better understanding

by Mr. Greg Nass

911th Communications Squadron

Don't forget to complete the 2006 Information Awareness training. All users need to complete this annual training no later than January 31, 2006 to retain network access.

To get started, go to www.my.af.mil and register for an Air Force portal account. Additionally, please remember that we also need those DD2875 user forms completed!

Please coordinate all computer and peripheral purchases through the assigned WGM or the Help Desk. We are unable to support equipment that does not meet the standards that are set by AFRC and the NCC team.

Tips and Tricks:

The Windows logo key, located in the bottom row of most computer keyboards, is a little-used treasure. It is the shortcut anchor for the following commands;

- To open Windows Explorer hit the Windows logo key + E
- To display "Search for files" hit the Windows logo key + F



- To display the "Run" dialog box hit the Windows logo key + R
- To lock the workstation hit the Windows logo key + L

It is possible to rename multiple files at once within Windows Explorer. Highlight a set of files in a window, then right click on one and rename it. All the other files will be renamed to that name, with individual numbers in brackets to distinguish them.

For the most part, the majority of the computer problems users experience can be resolved by simply rebooting the computer. Please try this before calling your WGM or the Help Desk, you might just be able to fix the problem yourself!

Signing off with a bad computer joke:
Four fonts walk into a bar. The bartender says "Hey - get out! We don't want your type in here."

Happy Holidays!

Work Group Managers (WGM)

911th Maintenance Group: Phil Call/X8397; 911th Operations Group: James Wise/X8323;
911th Mission Support Group: Kenneth Malachi/X8206
Help Desk X8444 or e-mail 911AW.Helpdesk@pittsburgh.af.mil

Ticket to making travel easier, more cost efficient

The decision by USAir and other airlines to cut service to and from Pittsburgh has put a very high premium on the number of seats available. It is now very important that you make reservations for air travel as soon as you receive confirmation of your upcoming temporary duty (TDY).

Dates of travel and time preferences are all the information required to make a reservation. Printed orders are still needed to have the ticket issued. Making reservations in advance can lead to considerable cost savings for the government and make your

travel easier and more time efficient.

Also a reminder to all travelers when calling Omega's after-hours emergency help desk, please identify yourself as a member of the 911th Airlift Wing and not just as a reservist in the Air Force. Omega has a number of Air Force accounts in both reserve and active duty status and this clarification will help avoid any problems with billing and reporting.

To obtain more information or make ticket reservations, call Mr. Joe Anoker, Omega Travel, at (412) 474-8197. (PA)



Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI)

A request for your support and diligence

Over the past several months there have been numerous reports of members' vehicles that were stolen with their military identification (ID), access badges, or uniforms still in the vehicle. Also incidences where their vehicle was broken into and an A-bag is taken from the back seat while their access badge is stolen from the rearview mirror.

I wanted to remind everyone about securing there military items, such as access badges, military ID cards and any other special organizational equipment that is not necessarily classified or controlled but sensitive nonetheless and, which would allow someone to find out what our personnel information is or even worse our mission. Securing these items is vital to protecting our installations and fellow military members.

The Eagle Eyes Program is designed to help

identify and prevent a potential terrorist or domestic attack, so let's not provide supplies for these groups. Do not leave your access badge or ID in your vehicle. Also remove your A-bag or duty gear from inside the vehicle; lock these items in the trunk or remove them all together. As a military member it is your responsibility to maintain control over your equipment and identification. Let's not be that someone who provides our enemies with the last piece of equipment needed to gain access to a military installation. In the event your vehicle has been stolen or broken into, report the matter to your local police department then immediately report the details to the Security Forces Law Enforcement Desk. If you have any questions or concerns contact AFOSI Detachment 325 OL-A, Pittsburgh IAP-ARS at (412) 474-8824. (PA)

Fuel costs, save money by fixing prices for the long-run

by Mr. David F. Kattler

911th Civil Engineering Squadron

Energy Costs are going up everywhere. This is quite obvious by just looking at the prices for gasoline when we fill up our cars. If you are like me, you may have noticed that you used less electricity last month, but your electric bill was more. Natural Gas (NG) is also going up just in time for heating season.

There are many things we can do to reduce our heating bills such as replacing old windows, putting up plastic over unused doors and windows, closing off unused or under-used rooms, etc.

Here are some tips on how to help stabilize your costs for the next few years. If you are speculating that NG prices are not going down, you may consider programs out there where you lock in your rate for several years.

How does this work? NG is a commodity. As an investor, you can speculate on the open market that

NG prices will not go down over the next few years. There are many NG suppliers who will lock you into a contract now at the current market price. So when it comes to your budget, you know exactly what you are paying for in a specified time period.

Will NG prices go down? As an individual investor, this is up to you to decide. That is part of the risk of an open market. My personal opinion is that once prices increase they rarely, if ever, go down over the long run.

What if I lock into a contract, and NG prices drop? You can get out of the contract and switch suppliers, but there is a penalty fee. The fee is usually nominal. The contract that I am personally in will cost me a mere \$100 to break.

How do I get started? Simply call your current provider. I personally called my provider and they locked me in for \$12.75 per one-thousand cubic feet (MCF) for five years. Considering prices will increase over \$13/MCF next month,

this was a no-brainer for me.

What is the difference between my current billing and a fixed rate program? Due to deregulation of the energy markets, everyone in Ohio and Pennsylvania are currently on "Market Rate" billing. Market rate means that your costs for MCF will vary. This explains why you may have paid \$12/MCF this month, but will pay over \$13/MCF next month. A fixed rate means you are guaranteed to pay the same price per MCF, every month, for the life of the contract. Just keep in mind that if there is a fluke reduction in the NG rate, your rate won't decrease. You have to look at the Long-Run when you enter into one of these contracts.

I would like to address one last item. When you lock into a rate, that rate is just for the cost of the gas. Your final bill will include taxes, and transportation cost (the cost for pipelines). These additional costs will vary depending on where you live. These additional costs may be 15 to 20 percent of your final bill.



Ms. Laura Figley

Unit: 911th Mission Support Group

Job: Student Hire

Job Scope: Filing, tracking training dates, etc.

Most demanding job aspect: Balancing work with school

Most rewarding job aspect: Flexible hours, meeting interesting people

Hometown: Aliquippa, Pa.

Hobbies: Listening to music, playing piano, knitting, sleeping

Favorite food: Cheese (all kinds)

Favorite music: Ben Folds, the Beatles

Favorite movie: The Princess Bride

Who'd play you in a movie? Natalie Portman

If you weren't working right now, what would you be doing? Sleeping or at school

Promotions

To Senior Airman:

Robert Calderwood, 32nd APS; Matthew Curtis DeBarr, 911th MXS; Shannon Hilderbrand, 911th SFS; Sherry Ann Larsen, 911th ASTS; Dylan Lehmeier, 32nd APS; Jacob Pekelnicky, 911th MXS; Amanda Perri, 911th LRS; Andrew Pietrzak, 911th MXS; Benjamin Pursglove, 911th CES, Det 1; Rodney Robson, 911th CES;



To Staff Sergeant:

Raelin Foster, 911th SVS; Jeremy Garrison, 911th CES, Det 1; Regis Hess, 911th CS; Brandon Kidd, 32nd APS; Caleb Murphy, 32nd APS;



To Technical Sergeant:

Melvin Adkins, Jr., 911th SFS; Nicolle Baughman, 911th ASTS; Latisha Blair, 911th AES; Pamela Brown, 32nd APS; Stacy Dye, 911th AMXS; Jeffrey Godfrey, 32nd APS; Chad Long, 32nd APS; John McCoy, 32nd APS; Aaron McCutcheon, 911th MXS; Janine Potter, 911th AW; Neil VanCamp, 911th MXS;



To Master Sergeant:

Tamara Wolber, 911th AES.



Photo by Master Sgt. Mark A. Winklosky

Congratulations to the 911th Civil Engineering Squadron's Environmental Flight receiving the Air Force Reserve Command Outstanding Environmental Flight Award for 2005. Members of the environmental flight are Mr. Joe Matis, Ms. Francine Vollmer, Mr. Frank Sniezek and Mr. Dave Oleksa.

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CORAOPOLIS PA 15108-4403

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

U T A S c h e d u l e

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